



# Delaware Nutrient Management



## Meeting Minutes-October 4, 2016

### The Delaware Nutrient Management Commission

#### **In attendance:**

*Commission Members Present: Mark Adkins, Kenny Blessing, Lauren Hill, Jessica Inhof, Bud O'Neill, Dave Baker, Scott Webb, Jennifer Singh, Ken Horeis, Lisa McCormick*

*Ex-Officios Present: Chris Brosch, Austin Short for Ed Kee*

*Commission Members Absent: Jim Elliott, Robert Palmer, Brenna Goggin, Richard Sterling, William Vanderwende*

*Others Present: Bob Coleman, Jessica Collins, Sally Kepfer, Wayne Hudson, Rudolph Spinka Jr., Harry Spence Jr., Judith Falkenhagen, Shelia Lomax, Mark Browning, Raymond Maruel, Richard Legan, Willie Zheng, Benjamin Johnson*

***This meeting was properly notified and posted as required by law.***

#### **Call to Order/Welcome:**

Vice Chairman Baker called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., welcomed everyone in attendance, and reminded those seeking education credits to sign the sign-in sheet.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was heard to approve the minutes of the Full Commission Meeting minutes of August 2, 2016. The minutes were approved.

#### **Discussion and Action Items:**

##### ***State Technical Standards Committee Update – Chris Brosch***

- We have taken the entire body of work and sub-divided the workload.
- Sally Kepfer has the most and is managing it diligently. The NRCS Standards have to be updated every 5 years and we are referring to them for some of the standards.
- Jen Volk @ U of D is updating/coordinating the many standards that were written by Dave Hansen.
- The NM/in-house standards are all being reviewed/cleaned up for the blessing of the commission.

##### ***CAFO Update – Jessica Collins***

- Not a whole lot has changed since we last met
- There is a new date for the appeal on the General Permit. It will be December 6, 2016 @ 9:00 @ the R & R Building
- Two Public Notices on board – 4 farms on notice for 30 days. The notice went in the papers on the 9/28/16.
- The individual farm (from the first batch) will have a hearing on November 2, 2016 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm @ the Ag Commodities Building at the fairgrounds in Harrington.
- Jessica will give a short presentation of the farm and general CAFO information. The floor will be opened up for comments from the public. Bob Hanes will be the hearing officer, he has been the past CAFO hearing officer. Questions will be answered in a technical response memo after the hearing.
- The commissioners are welcome to attend & participate.

##### ***Questions:***

- Why is this hearing being held? The two main points for this request of a hearing are manure storage & mortality management.
- Kenny B. asked, “Are all records and complaints forwarded to the hearing?” No past issues will be brought up. We will discuss how the operation is today. The EPA may ask for past records. Once a farm has gone through the process, and no

one has requested a hearing, a CAFO permit is issued. Once the hearing is complete, and issues have been addressed, a permit will be issued.

- How many farms are in CAFO status? 14 have been successfully through the process, 4 are currently being noticed and 1 is pending a hearing. We started with the largest farms first and we hope to increase the rate for notice with larger groups.

#### ***Vacancy Update – Chris Brosch***

The Environmental Scientist II position will be posted tomorrow, 10/5/16, and will run for 7 days. It is looking like the last week in October for interviews, possibly the second week of November. Chris asked for a volunteer from the commission to be on the interview panel. Bud volunteered, as the interviews will take place during harvest.

#### ***Poultry Litter historical analysis – Chris Brosch***

- The assumption was made that samples were wetter, which resulted in more money being paid out. The handout shows the trend is down.
- We added pounds for tons of Nitrogen & Phosphate and the number of samples, as asked for from the last meeting.
- The importance of the program is being emphasized with this data.
- These are annual averages with only poultry samples.
- There are variables of the sample collected versus what is reported, change in windrowing schedules, weather, and change in management.
- We have gotten moisture content to the upper 60's and as low as 18%, that is why there are averages on the handout. Chris has asked the lab to let us know when percentages are too high or too low, so we can take a closer look.
- Indicators say that nothing is standing out. No funny business in the relocation program.
- Clint Gill performed the analysis.

#### ***Administrators Report – Chris Brosch and staff***

- **Budget:** Commission adjusted the relocation rate to 8 cents a ton mile, and so far so good. We can sustain this now for months instead of weeks.
  - On the Poultry Companies line, we receive two checks that are not reflected in the total. It is just under \$60,000 now.
  - Bob and Donna have been working on invoicing and generating the correct data for the companies. Kenny B. asked if Amick has come onboard. Yes they have, just took a phone call to the correct person.
- **Complaints:** Bob said that the complaints were routine and valid. All complaints have been closed.
  - Bob visited the farms to ensure that CAFO and NM regulations were being followed. All were in compliance.
- **Inspections:** 55 CAFO & NM inspections have taken place this year. Brooke has been in training for the past 2 months and doing a good job with audit reports. She is taking a keen eye to the reports and streamlining the forms.
- **Cost Share Database:** Presenting some problems which we are working out.
- **Salesforce Database:** Annual Reports are at a 99% completion rate with 20 reports being sent back to farmers for incompleteness. We have 6 still outstanding.
  - Consultant renewal letters are going out for this quarter. 50 were sent this week and 44 are ready to go for the second week in October.

**Next Meeting:** The next regular Full Commission meeting will be November 1, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

**Adjournment:** Vice Chairman Baker adjourned the meeting at 7:37 pm.

Approved,

B. Vanderwende, Chairman  
Delaware Nutrient Management Commission  
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